

REMARKS

Allowance of the above captioned application in view of the currently amended claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, dependent claim 88 as previously pending was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In response, claim 88 has now been amended which should render moot the rejection under 35 U.S.C § 112.

Currently, claims 71-108 remain pending, including independent claims 71 and 91. Claim 71 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,139,164 to Alfio. Independent claim 91, on the other hand, was rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103 over Alfio in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,583,698 to Nistri. As now amended, however, it is believed that the claims patentably define over Alfio either alone or in combination with Nistri.

Alfio is directed to a method and device for winding bobbins of rubbery and essentially extensible tape material. In Alfio, a rubbery tape material is subdivided by a cutting device and the narrower tapes are then wound individually into bobbins. Specifically, the bobbins are individually wound around hubs (26a through 26d) supported in a freely rotary way, by means of suitable bearings around shafts (28a through 28d) which have a cantilever mount on the extremity of arms. As shown in Fig. 4, each of the shafts have different lengths in order to position the hubs across the width of a conveyor matt.

Claim 71 in the present application is directed to a winder for winding a web, while claim 91 is directed to a process for unwinding a parent roll into multiple product rolls. Each of the claims require a plurality of winding modules positioned adjacent to a web transport apparatus. Each winding module contains a mandrel upon which a web is wound. As now amended, and in comparison to Alfio, claims 71 and 91 require that the mandrels be consecutively positioned along the web transport apparatus and that each of the mandrels have substantially the same length.

Alfio, on the other hand, as described above, does not disclose a plurality of winding modules containing mandrels that are substantially the same length. In stark contrast, Alfio teaches the use of shafts having different lengths so that the hubs are positioned to receive the different parts of the cut rubberized tape. Alfio, in fact, teaches away from shafts having a substantially similar length. For example, in column 4, Alfio states that the shafts are of different lengths so that the shafts do not give rise "to interference between the advancing and the wound tapes". Thus, Applicants submit that the claims patentably define over Alfio either alone or in combination with Nistri.

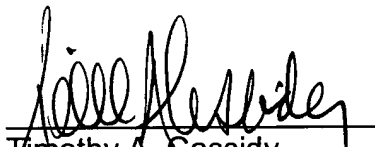
In summary, Applicants submit that the claims as presently pending patentably define over the prior art of record and are in complete condition for allowance. Favorable action, therefore, is respectfully requested. Should any issues remain after this Amendment, however, then Examiner Haugland is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned at his convenience.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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